

Nursing Echoes.

* * *All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.*



THE Duchess of PORTLAND, in reply to the request of the Troon District Nursing Association, recently formed, has written that it will give her the greatest pleasure to become their president, and that she will be glad to do anything in her power to further the scheme.

* * *
THERE is a vacancy for a Lady Superintendent at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The applications must be received by the 20th of March.

* * *
It is reported that owing to the satisfactory financial condition of the Nurses' Co-operation, at 8, New Cavendish Street, the percentage to be paid by the members is to be reduced from 7½ to 5 per cent. This is, indeed, good news, and should be one more nail in the coffin of our *bête noir*—the Nurse sweater.

* * *
NEWS reaches us, by the last mail, of the institution of the Nurses' Bureau of the New York Academy of Medicine, which was opened on Monday, 5th February, 1894. Each Nurse who registers will be charged a fee of \$2 a year for registry, and will be required to have an indorsement by two reputable physicians, who will be written to minutely as to their knowledge of her character and capacity as a Nurse. Each time that a Nurse is taken out by a patient, the patient will pay a fee of \$2 to the bureau for this privilege. When a Nurse leaves a case, the physician for whom she has been nursing the case will be written to for minute details as to her management of it, and in many instances the friends of the patient will also be written to. In this way the record of each Nurse grows up by accretion, and if a Nurse notably fails to perform her duties, she will not be permitted to have the privileges of the bureau. At first it is proposed to have the rooms open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and certain lists of names will be left with someone in the building over night. As soon as the bureau is running fairly well, it will be kept open day and night. A telephone will be put in for the use of the bureau, and the Superintendent will be a trained Nurse. The work is under the charge of a committee, consisting of Drs. S. S. BURT, W. E. BULLARD, H. T. HANKS, and R. VAN SANTVOORD.

THE following letter has been sent over the signature "Wretched Nursing," to the *Army and Navy Gazette*, entitled "Nursing in India":—

SIR,—I am glad you have taken up the question of the Nursing of the sick soldier in Indian Hospitals. I do not know of any question which stands in such urgent need of a full and clear investigation. Apart from the medical officers and apothecaries who work our army Hospitals in India, there are three classes of persons employed in caring for our sick soldiers, viz:—

- I. English Lady Nurses—
 - Class I. Indian Nursing Service.
 - " II. Lady Roberts' Nurses.
- II. Temporary soldier orderlies from battalions and batteries.
- III. The Army Hospital Corps, a body of native fatigue men and attendants and cooks.

Let me glance at the three classes in turn:—

1st. The Indian Nursing Service is a small body of English Lady Nurses enlisted in England and sent out to India by the State. They are to be found in groups of three, four, or five ladies in eight or ten Indian garrisons. Lady Roberts' Nurses are a very similar body, smaller in number, enlisted by Lady Roberts, and employed in six or eight stations where no army Sisters are stationed. Now, both these classes of ladies are really "Sisters"; that is, supervising and superintending teachers of Nursing, who by example and by precept should teach the "Nurses" how to nurse. No doubt advantages have resulted from these ladies coming to India, but their efficiency and usefulness is greatly handicapped by the want of permanent corps of male "Nurses" to work with them and carry out theirs and the doctors' instructions. Unfortunately no such corps exists, and the Sisters, few in number and working in a bad climate, are often horribly overworked and tired and worn out.

2nd. *The Soldier Orderlies*.—These men are soldiers chosen often by chance from regiments and batteries and lent to the Hospitals. They are untrained, untaught, often dull and stupid, now and then intelligent, changed unceasingly, given at the whim of a commander, and in no sense are a permanent help in the Hospitals. It is to these ignorant and unskilled men we commit week after week the care of our soldiers ill with typhoid. They break the heart of doctor and of Sister by their ignorance, their roughness, their unsuitability for so technical a work. What we want is a permanent body given to us, viz., a corps of men, at the rate of 12 men for every 100 beds in a Hospital, to be the "Nurses" under the Sisters in the large central Hospitals, and to be the Nurses under the doctors direct in the out-stations where no Sisters exist. Time after time we ask for such a corps, but no one listens, and soldiers die of typhoid often shockingly nursed. Could anything be more painful to a doctor who is trying to do his duty? By the last return we lost in India in the year 380 deaths, and 1,360 attacks of enteric fever alone. Think what the bad Nursing of these men means.

3rd. *The Army Hospital Corps*.—This is a native corps of fatigue men and labourers who work in the Hospitals and do the cooking and fatigue work needful in so trying a climate. Here is a description of them: They are—(1) underfed; (2) underpaid; (3) weak; (4) ignorant; (5) idle. Hopelessly old and wretched in their inefficiency. They are the scum of the bazaars. Words would fail to picture their complete unreadiness and unfitness for work in peace and in war. Day by day one hears the cry of the sick soldier for the attendant who is never present, and morning after morning one sees the result of food wrongly introduced into the Hospital, or drink surreptitiously brought to the patients.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)